MediaWiki

One Click Installs

MediaWiki is a program that lets you and visitors to your site input information about a subject. If you haven't noticed it we are using it for our support knowledge base (the thing that you are on right now). It's like an on-line encyclopedia. You can visit MediaWiki's website for more details and to see examples of it being used. http://www.mediawiki.org/wiki/MediaWiki

MediaWiki is most well-known for being the software behind Wikipedia . It is also the software that runs this site.

You can use the DreamHost Control Panel to install your own MediaWiki-based wiki. It's under Goodies Control Panel > One-Click Installs. By using the more advanced options, you can make it even more flexible and customizable. There is a little bit of a learning curve, but once you figure out the basics, it can potentially feel like a fairly efficient system to use.

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Getting Started

You can use the DreamHost Control Panel to install your own MediaWiki-based wiki. It's under Goodies Control Panel > One-Click Installs

Basically, you put all mediawiki files in your chosen directory (either via the DreamHost script or by FTP), create a mysql database and user, then point your browser at http://your.install.directory/config where you fill-in a large configuration form.

Execute the form, move the newly generated LocalSettings.php to the parent directory, and delete the config directory with its content.

Troubleshooting

New extensions 2014

If you get an error message immediately after installing that states:

MediaWiki internal error.
Exception caught inside exception handler.
Set $wgShowExceptionDetails = true; at the bottom of LocalSettings.php to show detailed debugging information.

Try the following:

Use
require_once("$IP/extensions/SimpleAntiSpam/SimpleAntiSpam.php");
OR
require_once("$IP/extensions/TitleBlacklist/TitleBlacklist.php");

And comment out:
require_once("$IP/extensions/Scribunto/Scribunto.php");

Older

As of mediawiki 1.8.2 be sure to select "use backward-compatible UTF-8" in the configuration form's mysql section. "UTF-8 experimental" does not work and it causes the install script to fail silently without generating LocalSettings.php . This is mediawiki bug 6085 that depends on buggy MySQL support of UTF-8. See http://bugzilla.wikimedia.org/show_bug.cgi?id=6085

In the MediaWiki 1.8.2 installation process, the configuration form will ask for a "database host" which defaults to "localhost". It seems you must change this to an answer that looks like "mysql.<yourdomain.net>".

An error referring to "require_once" in Setup.php may mean that the global variable $IP refers to a non-existent path (directory), which can happen after a Server Move. $IP is set in LocalSettings.php. Make a backup of it then edit it to remove any directory beginning with a . in $IP.

Using Tex Markup

MediaWiki can use Latex Markup for Mathematics , to use it you must go to your `wikiInstallationDirectory/math` and run `make`. To do this, you first must set the user account to Enabling Shell Access, and then login to your account using an SSH shell client. Once logged in, use Unix Commands to navigate yourself to the math directory stated above, and then run the `make` command. The required executable will then be compiled. Once compilation has compiled, set `$wgUseTeX = true;` in your LocalSettings.php and then markup like

```
<math>\sum_{n=0}^\infty \frac{x^n}{n!}</math>
```

will show up as an image in your MediaWiki.

Permissions

Under the default one-click dreamhost install under Goodies, you CAN set all files and subdirectories under the wiki root directory to group writeable. This is helpful if you want to share administrative/patching and other duties with other accounts in your group. You can use a custom group to scope permissions properly. MediaWiki will still execute just fine with group writeableness turned on.

Google Analytics

If you are using Google Analytics , you can easily use it on your wiki. The MediaWiki Google Analytics Integration extension is the best way to do this.

You can also modify MediaWiki directly by changing the MonoBook.php file (or your skin file of choice). Simply insert the text that Google Analytics provides right before the "</body>" at the end of the PHP file. Log into your Google Analytics account to get the correct text. Note that this method will only work for the skins that you modify. If users are allowed to change skins and do so, they will not be tracked.

Alternatively you can add to LocalSettings.php,

```
$wgHooks['SkinAfterBottomScripts'][] = function ( $skin, &$text ) {

        $text .= HTML::inlineScript( <<<contents
var gaJsHost = (("https:" == document.location.protocol) ? "https://ssl." : "http://www.");
document.write(unescape("%3Cscript src='" + gaJsHost + "google-analytics.com/ga.js'
type='text/javascript'%3E%3C/script%3E"));
contents
);

        $text .= HTML::inlineScript( <<<contents
try {
var pageTracker = _gat._getTracker("UA-4073938-8");
pageTracker._trackPageview();
} catch(err) {}
contents
);

        return true;
};
```

^ This will add the text that Google Analytics provides to the bottom of all skins

Google Maps

To add google maps to your wiki, install the Google Maps Extension

MediaWiki licensing

When MediaWiki is installed the installer selects the appropriate licensing (usually, GFDL or Creative Commons). Changes to the licensing can be made in LocalSettings.php .

See MediaWiki licensing settings for settings and detailed intructions.

Running maintenance scripts

To do this, you must enable command-line access on Dreamhost, then log in vis ssh.

Then you must use PHP5: /usr/local/php5/bin/php to run the .php files stored in the maintenance subdir.

Thumbnail problems

MediaWiki may occasionally have problems generating image thumbnails, returning corrupted images or the error message "Error creating thumbnail". There are two common causes of this:

Not enough memory

If you upload a large image and see "Error creating thumbnail" where a thumbnail should be, try adding the following to LocalSettings.php:

```
$wgMaxShellMemory = 524288;
```

Thanks to Black Gate Publishing for the tip.

SVG images

The default image processing programs installed do not have good support for generating thumbnails of SVG images. You can work around this by installing librsvg and configuring MediaWiki to use it instead. Note that the installation process is not supported and is recommended only for advanced users.

Email

Domain spoofing

Use `$wgUserEmailUseReplyTo = true;` to spoof the domain so that the sending user's email will be in a Reply-To header instead of From. Otherwise, emails users try to send each other through Special:EmailUser on your wiki will not be delivered.

Notifications

Given the SMTP quotas, you might want to think carefully about whether you want to enable $wgEnotifWatchlist. If a page is watchlisted by 100 users who have that user preference enabled, then a change to that page will use up your quota for an hour, if you are on shared hosting.

Topical index

- MediaWiki/Backing up a wiki
- MediaWiki/Enabling uploads
- MediaWiki/Installing and managing extensions
- MediaWiki/Upgrading
- MediaWiki/Google Adsense
- MediaWiki/Security and MediaWiki/Spam
- MediaWiki/Short URL's
- MediaWiki/Support

See Also

- htaccess
- mod_rewrite
- Short_url

External Links

- MediaWiki's official website
- MetaWikiPedia:Help:Editing – MediaWiki markup reference.

Categories: Web Applications | Available One Click Installs | Htaccess

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